persons concerned. It does not follow that if A is more qualified than B, because of that of alone it does not follow that A has more aptitude and capability for a particular work than B. I think that the first Inspector has got more aptitude than the second, in town improvement work. Unless there is very clear reason for a change, a change could not be effected basing on the literary qualification alone.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu (*Kunnamkulam*): If the second one is also found to be equally efficient, why not the Government have some savings in the T. A.?

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): I say again that the opinion of the Department must be that Mr. A is more competent to do this work than B. It is not a question of efficiency alone.

Mr. V. J. Mathai (*Planters*): May I know where the Sanitary Inspector, Northern Division, is stationed?

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): His Head Office, I understand is in Trichur. He is a touring Officer. I may also give the information that his T. A. is consolidated.

BEGGAR PROBLEM—TACKLING OF.

38. Mr. M. K. Devassy (*Adur*): Will the Government be pleased to state with reference to its answer to question No. 103 (*c*) of the last budget session the ground for the belief that any legislation in the State, regarding the poor problem without similar legislation in the adjoining territories will be ineffective in tackling the question here?

Mr. P. J. George (*Joint Secretary to Government*): In the absence of similar legislation in the adjoining territories, there will be the likelihood of beggars from those places flocking to this place, and this will involve enormous capital and recurring expenditure which the Government cannot bear.

Mr. M. K. Devassy (*Adur*): May I know, Sir, what is the particular feature of poor legislation that attracts beggars from foreign parts to this State?

Mr. P. J. George (*Joint Secretary to Government*): This place will become some sort of a paradise for these people and everything will be found for them, that will be attractive.

Mr. M. K. Devassy (*Adur*): Is it not a feature of any poor legislation that is to be taken up that beggary should be prevented?

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Mr. P. J. George (*Joint Secretary to Government*): When there is no legislation for tackling the problem in the neighbouring parts of British India and Travancore, we should not alone be made to bear the financial burden.

Mr. M. K. Devassy (*Adur*): May I know whether the Government seriously mean when they say that beggars will come from countries where there is no law?

Mr. P. J. George (*Joint Secretary to Government*): When we pass a legislation here, there will be compulsion here that all beggars should be sent to beggar-houses and all beggars will crowd here. Even if they are unwilling, they will be forced into the asylum.

Mr. M. K. Devassy (*Adur*): May I take it that it will be a feature of the poor legislation that there will be provision for beggars by way of poor houses?

Mr P. J. George (*Joint Secretary to Government*): Yes.

Mr. M. K. Devassy (*Adur*): If that is so, does it mean that we will have to admit foreign beggars to these houses?

Mr. P. J. George (*Joint Secretary to Government*): It is very difficult to recognise them. They will not give their correct whereabouts.

Mr. President: That is probably the difficulty we find even in our hospitals.

Mr. M. K. Devassy (*Adur*): It is not a question of difficulty. But difficulties do not deter the Government from having hospitals. Similarly difficulties should not deter the Government from passing poor legislation.

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao (*Chief Medical Officer*): Every Kottayam and Tiruvella man is a Mulanthuruthi man.

Mr. M. K. Devassy (*Adur*): On that ground does the Government dispense with hospitals?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao (*Chief Medical Officer*): We are finding it difficult to dispense with these people.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim (*Cranganur*): Can we not compulsorily drive them away from the State? How can this be an insurmountable difficulty to solve the problem?

Mr. P. J. George (*Joint Secretary to Government*): It is a very difficult problem. So many will have to be taken in

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ambulance cars to the frontier of the State. Further there is the question of making out their identity.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim (*Cranganur*) : Will there not be a contrivance by which we can identify Cochin beggars from foreign beggars?

Mr. M. K. Devassy (*Adur*): Is there not a law to prevent vagrancy in Cochin?

Mr. K. Kochukunhan Kaimal (*Vadakkancheri*): Whether Government realise the necessity of at least accommodating the beggars that we find in Cochin?

Mr. P. J. George (*Joint Secretary to Government*): Probably you speak of an ideal State.

Mr. K. Kochukunhan Kaimal (*Vadakkancheri*): Will the Government consider that this is a matter that has to be taken up and tackled by the Government as far as possible?

Mr. P. J. George (*Joint Secretary to Government*): As far as practicability goes, it is extremely difficult.

Mr. K. Kochukunhan Kaimal (*Vadakkancheri*): The aim should not be defeated by considerations of practicability alone. The practical difficulties will no doubt have to be taken into account and they have to be tackled with reference to each difficulty according to circumstances. My point is whether Government has accepted the principle regarding the necessity of housing the poor people.

Mr. P. J. George (*Joint Secretary to Government*): If some practicable course is suggested by the non-official members, the Government will be only too glad to act up to it.

Mr. M. K. Devassy (*Adur*): Sir, I put a question earlier which was not unfortunately answered. Is there no law now to prevent vagrancy of foreigners in Cochin?

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja (*Advocate-General*): We have got a law to prevent European vagrants.

Mr. M. K. Devassy (*Adur*): Can't that provision of law be given effect to in this case?

Mr. President: You do not find European vagrants everyday here.

Mr. M. K. Devassy (*Adur*): Are there not cases where non-Cochinites who belong to the adjoining parts have been

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asked to furnish security according to the provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code?

Mr. P. J. George (*Joint Secretary to Government*): Action is taken only against those who have a tendency to come here.

Mr. K. Ayyappan (*Ezhuvas-Kanayannur*): What has been the experience of the Government in the matter of sending the beggars to the poor houses? Are the beggars willing to go and stay in Poor Houses?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao (*Chief Medicl Officer*): They are not willing, because they find beggary a paying proposition.

Mr. T. V. Subramania Ayyar (*Nemmara*): In spite of the fact that these places are paradises, do they not go?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao (*Chief Medical Officer*): In fact I myself tried to tackle this problem. I took some beggars to the poor house and the next day they were not seen there. They find begging more profitable. They earn money by begging. It is not a practicable proposition to take them to the poor houses.

Mr. M. K. Devassy (*Adur*): How is it that the Chief Medical Officer answers this question on beggar problem?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao (*Chief Medical Officer*): I am the President of the Poor House Committee.

Mr. M. K. Devassy (*Adur*): May I know definitely the position of the Government in the matter—whether these difficulties stand in the way of poor legislation in the State?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao (*Chief Medical Officer*): In the practical working of it, this will involve large sums of money and considering the financial position of the State, it will not be possible for Government to undertake legislation for the present at any rate.

Mr. M. K. Devassy (*Adur*): Does the reference to large sums of money mean large sums to be incurred in preventing foreign beggars coming to Cochin?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao (*Chief Medical Officer*): Not only that. We have to maintain them. All these mean money.

Mr. M. K. Devassy (*Adur*): Do you mean to say that the prevention of the influx of foreign beggars as a condition precedent to enact legislation?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao (*Chief Medical Officer*): It is one of the conditions.

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Mr. M. K. Devassy (*Adur*): My further doubt is whether that is going to stand in the way for ever.

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao (*Chief Medical Officer*): For the time being at any rate, and it will be so till the finances improve.

Mr. M. K. Devassy (*Adur*): Finances for what?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao (*Chief Medical Officer*): Finances for running a large number of poor houses in every part of the State.

Mr. M. K. Devassy (*Adur*): Do you mean finances for preventing the influx of foreign beggars into Cochin?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao (*Chief Medical Officer*): For housing them too.

Mr. T. V. Subramania Ayyar (*Nemmara*): Is it not possible to undertake legislation to prevent foreign beggars from coming to the State?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao (*Chief Medical Officer*): More as an academic discussion, it may be done, but I do not think it is practicable.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan (*Chalakkudi*): Have the Government addressed the Madras or Travancore Government for taking action?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao (*Chief Medical Officer*): Even in the City of Madras, they have found it very difficult to tackle this problem.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan (*Chalakkudi*): But I find from the newspaper reports that they are going to do something.

Mr. M. K. Devassy (*Adur*): May I remind the Government the saying of Cardinal Newman that a dozen difficulties should not make a doubt? (*Laughter*).

APPOINTMENTS—ELECTRICAL DEPARTMENT—TRICHUR MUNICIPALITY.

39. Mr. K. R. Viswambharan (*Ezhuvas-Talappalli*): Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(*a*) the number of posts sanctioned by the Government in the Electrical Department, Trichur Municipality;

(*b*) whether the posts thus sanctioned are temporary or permanent;

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